

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, substituting any amended claim(s) for the corresponding pending claim(s):

Claims 1-22. (cancelled)

1 23. (Currently Amended) A method for managing Walsh Codes in a Code Division Multiple Access  
2 (CDMA) cellular wireless communication system, the method comprises:  
3 allocating a number of Walsh Codes in the CDMA cellular wireless communication system to a  
4 group of cell(s) or sector(s);  
5 setting a handoff participation limit to a maximum participation limit, where the handoff  
6 participation limit determines a maximum number of cells or sectors that may participate in handoff with  
7 any serviced mobile terminal;  
8 when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than a first Walsh Code  
9 availability threshold, reducing the ~~hand~~ handoff participation limit to a first participation limit that is less  
10 than the maximum participation limit;  
11 when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than a second Walsh  
12 Code availability threshold, that is less than the first Walsh Code availability threshold, reducing the  
13 handoff participation limit to a second participation limit that is less than the first participation limit; and  
14 for any mobile terminal participating in handoff with a number of cells or sectors that exceeds the  
15 handoff participation limit, terminating forward link transmissions from a corresponding number of  
16 servicing cell(s) or sector(s) and releasing a corresponding number of Walsh Code(s).

1 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein terminating forward link transmissions  
2 from a corresponding number of servicing cell(s)/sector(s) and releasing a corresponding number of  
3 Walsh Code(s) further comprises:  
4 determining a weakest forward link serviced by a weakest cell or sector; and  
5 terminating the weakest forward link serviced by the weakest cell or sector.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the weakest forward link is determined  
2 based upon the strength of corresponding pilot signals, as measured and reported by the mobile terminal.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein a plurality of reports of pilot signal  
2 strengths are used in conjunction with averaging operations to determine the weakest forward link.

- 1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein terminating forward link transmissions
- 2 from a corresponding number of servicing cell(s)/sector(s) and releasing a corresponding number of
- 3 Walsh Code(s) further comprises:
- 4 terminating a weakest forward link when the mobile terminal is in five-way hand-off; and
- 5 terminating two weakest forward links when the mobile terminal is in six-way hand-off.

1 28. (Previously Presented) A base station controller that supports Code Division Multiple Access  
2 (CDMA) operations for a group of cells or sectors, the base station controller comprises:

3 a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) interface that interfaces the base station controller to a MSC;  
4 at least one base station interface that interface the base station controller to a plurality of base stations;  
5 and

6 at least one digital processor coupled to the base station interface and to the MSC interface; and  
7 a plurality of software instructions that are executed by the processor, the plurality of software  
8 instructions include:

9 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station  
10 controller to allocate a number of Walsh Codes in the CDMA cellular wireless  
11 communication system to the group of cells or sectors;

12 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station  
13 controller to set a handoff participation limit to a maximum participation limit, where the  
14 handoff participation limit determines a maximum number of cells or sectors that may  
15 participate in handoff with any serviced mobile terminal;

16 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station  
17 controller to, when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than  
18 a first Walsh Code availability threshold, reduce the handoff participation limit to a first  
19 participation limit that is less than the maximum participation limit;

20 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station  
21 controller to, when an available number of the number of Walsh Codes becomes less than  
22 a second Walsh Code availability threshold, that is less than the first Walsh Code  
23 availability threshold, reduce the handoff participation limit to a second participation  
24 limit that is less than the first participation limit; and

25 software instructions that, upon execution by the processor, cause the base station  
26 controller to, for any mobile terminal participating in handoff with a number of cells or  
27 sectors that exceeds the handoff participation limit, terminate forward link transmissions  
28 from a corresponding number of servicing cell(s) or sector(s) and releasing a  
29 corresponding number of Walsh Code(s).

1 29. (Previously Presented) The base station controller of claim 28, wherein in terminating forward  
2 link transmissions from a corresponding number of servicing cell(s)/sector(s) and releasing a  
3 corresponding number of Walsh Code(s), the base station controller determines a respective weakest  
4 forward link for the mobile terminal and terminates the respective weakest forward link.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The base station controller of claim 29, wherein the base station controller  
2 determines the respective weakest forward link based upon the strength of corresponding pilot signals, as  
3 measured and reported by the mobile terminal.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The base station controller of claim 30, wherein a plurality of reports of  
2 pilot signal strengths are used in conjunction with averaging operations to determine the weakest forward  
3 link.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The base station controller of claim 28, wherein the base station controller  
2 operates consistent with at least one of IS-95A, IS-95B, 1xRTT and 1xEV-DO operating standards.